

to Christianity. Fanatic relatives of Shaymaa el-Sayed, 26 years old, attacked her in Alexandria, beating her, attempting to shove her into a car and vowing to kill her for her "apostasy."

Police intervened. They arrested the victim herself. When they found her Christian identity papers, local police transferred her to a state security investigation office where the officials forcibly disrobed and photographed her naked in front of all the policemen at the station.

She was repeatedly subjected to interrogation and severe torture, including electrocution. She was released by the Egyptian police into the custody of her family despite their threats to kill her. "This is not legal treatment, but it is happening all the time," said Rasha Noor, an Egyptian human rights activist. "The Christians from Muslim backgrounds can't change their identities, so they are forced by the authorities to return back to Islam, or else."

God bless this young woman.

STRENGTHENING THE SUCCESSFUL SCHIP PROGRAM

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, as the House prepares to vote on the Child Health and Medicare Protection Act, known as the CHAMP Act, later today, I think it is important to refute some of the misleading talking points that Republicans are seizing on as they oppose this health insurance for millions of American children.

First, Republicans claim that by strengthening the State Children's Health Insurance Program, known as SCHIP, we are advancing "government doctors," advancing "government health plans."

This could be no further from the truth. Government does not deliver SCHIP services. Instead, it is private doctors and private health plans through private insurance. This program is operated successfully in my State of New Jersey and around the Nation.

Second, Republicans say that we are trying to expand the program to reach middle-income families. Again, that is false. We are not expanding the program. Today, 5 million children are eligible for SCHIP but are not enrolled. We are strengthening the program so that we can reach almost all of these children, the vast majority of whom come from low-income families.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

SUPPORT THE WELLNESS AND PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the

rising cost of health care in this country. While the nature of health care makes reaching consensus difficult, Congress must take action to make health care more affordable.

For this reason, I have introduced H.R. 853, the Wellness and Prevention Act of 2007. This legislation encourages the implementation of wellness and prevention plans in the workplace. The bill allows companies and employees to collect tax credits for wellness programs.

Statistics have proven that every dollar a business spends on a wellness program results in a \$3 return. Furthermore, Americans will take charge of their own health, thereby increasing productivity and reducing absenteeism.

I invite my colleagues to sponsor H.R. 853, because as the old saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Congress must now act to reduce the risk of disease, encourage a healthier America and help curb the rising cost of health care.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO ENSURE MILLIONS OF NEW CHILDREN RECEIVE THE HEALTH CARE THEY DESERVE

(Ms. HOOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, over the last 10 years, the Children's Health Insurance Program has been a success story, significantly reducing the number of children living without health insurance at a time when employer-sponsored insurance continues to erode.

When CHIP was created in 1997, the number of uninsured children under the age of 19 was 23 percent. Over the last decade, that has fallen to 15 percent. That is a great improvement, but still unacceptable.

That is why Democrats will bring the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act to the House floor today for a vote. The CHAMP Act invests in our children by ensuring that nearly every child eligible for the CHIP program is signed up and is receiving the essential preventative health care they need to live longer and healthier lives. If we do not take care of our children's health now, we will pay a lot more later on.

Madam Speaker, with the passage of the CHAMP Act later today, this House will move us significantly closer to ensuring that every child in America has access to health insurance.

TRAMPLING ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN AMERICA

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. America, your freedom of speech was trampled on yesterday. This new Democratic leadership quashed any semblance of free speech here on this House floor. This is not just a proce-

dural matter, mind you. This is a matter for all Americans.

You see, each Member of Congress represents 600,000 constituents. That is 600,000 American voices that were quashed yesterday. As I say, this is not just a Republican issue, for their voices were quashed, but so were Democrat and Independent voices as well.

But in fact, this is nothing new for the new Democrat leadership. Just a week ago we had to come to this floor to make sure we could fight to keep the radio waves and the media opening dealing with the Fairness Doctrine. Prior to this, we had to fight to make sure that the centuries-old tradition of bipartisanship would not be broken. Prior to that, we had to fight to make sure that there would be transparency in earmarks, and all the Republicans fought on the side of openness and freedom of speech.

The Democrats say they tolerate all diversity, but apparently diversity not of thought and speech.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO STRENGTH- EN THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH IN- SURANCE PROGRAM

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, at a time when there are serious problems in our health care system, the Children's Health Insurance Program, otherwise known as CHIP, has a proven track record. Over the last decade, as the number of uninsured Americans has increased, the number of children living without health insurance has actually decreased, and thanks to the CHIP program, we have experienced a 60-percent drop in the number of uninsured children.

This week, the House plans to reauthorize the CHIP program. Congress must act on this legislation now. In the past, CHIP has received strong bipartisan support. However, in an about-face, the President and some Republicans have abandoned their support of CHIP on supposed philosophical grounds.

If Congress refuses to act this week, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that nearly 1 million children will lose their health coverage. Democrats are simply not to get that to happen. We are going to pass the CHIP reauthorization today so that 11 million children have access to the health insurance they need to live healthy lives.

MISSION LEAP TOWARDS SOCIALIZED MEDICINE

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, today the United States Congress will take up the full march towards socialized medicine here in the United States. This isn't mission creep, Madam Speaker; this is mission leap.